

Message

What you need to know to start your day.

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Environment -
Environment & Energy
Report
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AM
To: Duffy, Rick
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Subject: First Move: Post-
Deepwater Reviews •
Colorado Anti-Fracking
Group's Woes •
Removing Carbon With
Electrons

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Post-Deepwater Reviews • Colorado Anti-Fracking Group's Woes • Removing Carbon With Electrons



By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

The Trump administration asked for public input on regulatory changes aimed at putting in place lessons learned from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster.

The reviews are in from environmentalists and 10 Democratic attorneys general: Go back to the drawing board, or we'll see you in court.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement needs to give much better explanations and data to justify its proposals, the attorneys general said in

their comments. And In several places, the bureau requests suggestions for how it could amend certain provisions “without providing any fair notice of how the agency actually plans to amend those provisions,” environmental law firm Earthjustice contends.

[Alan Kovski](#) has more details in a [story](#) out today.

COLORADO FRACKING: A Colorado group opposed to fracking wanted help gathering ballot-question signatures. It ended up with two fights on its hands.

One was with energy companies, who argue that the Colorado Rising citizens’ initiative will crush jobs and infringe on private property rights. The other battle was with a vendor that took boxes of signatures out of state just before a crucial deadline, prompting the group to sue the vendor for making it sweat out the due date.

[Tripp Baltz](#) explains further in a [story](#) out today.

OTHER STORIES WE’RE COVERING

- The Florida toxic algae crisis that’s dampening tourism isn’t likely to get an easy fix from Washington, but a combination of technology, protecting swamps, and limiting fertilizer might provide solutions, [Chris Marr](#) and [Gerald Silverman](#) explain in a [story](#) out this morning.
- Sweden’s fuel suppliers are questioning the value of a new ordinance requiring them to provide motorists with greenhouse gas emissions information at the pump, beginning in 2020, Marcus Hoy writes in a [story](#) out this morning.
- California has long had a list of dangerous school supplies that districts aren’t allowed to buy. The state [updated it](#) with three new items, including Playskool Crayons, prompted by a report that said a green crayon tested positive for asbestos. [Emily Dooley](#) is monitoring.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I think it was a political answer, and perhaps I was not surprised.”
—Alaska GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski, who chairs the Senate energy committee, [talking with reporters](#) after a hearing in which an Energy Department nominee said he couldn’t comment on White House efforts to bail out coal plants because he doesn’t know all the details.

ALL ABOUT: REMOVING CARBON WITH ELECTRONS

The EPA is poised to release its plans to replace Obama-era carbon controls for power plants with narrower emissions requirements. One company hopes the ensuing discussion about how much the power sector should reduce emissions opens a door for its novel technology.

“Our technology could very efficiently remove carbon dioxide and would provide a way for fossil fuel power plants to comply with all emissions regulations,” says Steve Kennedy, founder of Lake Forest, Ill.-based [Zerronox Corp.](#)

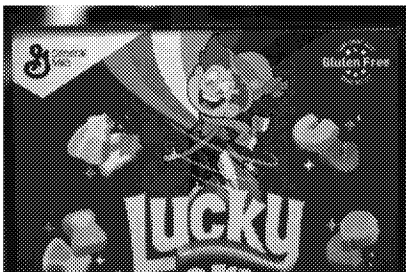
The process, originally developed for fusion at the Naval Research Laboratory, uses high-powered beams of electrons pulsing about five times a second to break apart the chemical bonds of pollutants, Kennedy said. He and his colleagues spoke with EPA and White House officials Aug. 7.

Zerronox has optimized the process for removal of nitrogen oxide. According to Kennedy, pulsed electron beams can reduce more than 98 percent of a power plant’s nitrogen oxide, compared to the roughly 80 percent to 90 percent that traditional scrubber technologies remove.

Kennedy also estimated removing a plant’s nitrogen oxide using pulsed electron beams is anywhere from five to 10 times more cost-effective than its conventional alternatives.

The company wants to do the same with carbon dioxide—but first, it needs funding to study how the process works for carbon. Pulsed electron beams could be a one-stop-shop for power plants to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide as well as nitrogen oxide, he added. —*Abby Smith*

AROUND THE WEB



A box of General Mills' Lucky Charms is displayed in San Rafael, Calif., in September 2017.

Photographer: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

- General Mills and Quaker Oats [push back against](#) an Environmental Working Group report that the weedkiller glyphosate was found in

Cheerios, Lucky Charms and other cereals: "Our products are safe and without question they meet regulatory safety levels," General Mills says.

- Florida's two senators, trying to help Sunshine State communities [battling](#) algae blooms, [urge Senate leaders](#) to bring up a comprehensive water resources bill for a vote.
- The Texas Observer and Quartz begin a [nine-part series](#) on the disputes that water triggers among bordering nations, including the U.S. and Mexico.

TODAY'S EVENTS

- **8:45 a.m. • Wheeler** • Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler [visits](#) Michigan's Pointe Mouillee State Game Area to discuss Great Lakes issues with federal, state and local officials.
- **4 p.m. • Alaska** • NOAA's Science Seminar series holds a [webinar](#) on recent climate conditions and forecasts around Alaska.
- **Sunday, 2 p.m. • Climate** • Citizens' Climate Lobby DC [hosts a conversation](#) with University of Maryland psychologist Dylan Seltermann, author of the recent National Geographic [article](#) "What a Simple Psychological Test Reveals About Climate Change."

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